

**High School Exit Exam Standards Panel Meeting
The Grand, Sacramento
March 24, 2000
Minutes**

Panelists present included: Sarah “Betsy” Adams, Christine Aranda, Nancy Avoy, Sally Baker, Leon Beauchman, Kathleen Blackwood, Angela Boyle, James Brown, Margaret DeArmond, Ana Maria Flores, James Frost, Hal Geiogue, Ana Maria Golan, Dave Jolly, Alice Kawazoe, David Marsh, Anthony Moye, Becky Reece, Glen Thomas, Marilyn Whirry, Mark Wilson, Marilyn K. Wulliger

Panelists not present included: Mary Bergan, Kimberlee Breen, Marilyn Buchi, Bill Cirone, Dan Condron, Diego Davalos, Bob Douglas, Fernando Elizondo, Ted Erskine, Ben Flores, Jerry Flores, Dave Gordon, Ruth Ann McKenna, Bobbie Metzger, Ella Miyamoto, Sharif Shakrani, Curtis Washington, Jim Wilson

Special Education Liaison present: Kendra Rose

State Board of Education Liaisons not present included: Marion Joseph, Monica Lozano

California Department of Education (CDE) staff present included: Robert Anderson, John Carey, Jan Chladek, Gayland Jordan, Marion Miller, Gwen Stephens

American Institutes for Research (AIR) staff present included: Patty Armstrong, Nancy Mead, Judy Mitchell, Fran Stancavage, Paul Williams

Human Resources Research (HUMRRO) staff present included: Pat Ford

David Marsh, High School Exit Examination (HSEE) co-chair, opened the meeting, welcomed panelists, and asked members who attended the March 16-17 technical advisory meeting review of field test items for any comments on that meeting. Betsy Adams and Ana Maria Flores both said that they were impressed with the American Institutes for Research’s (AIR) work and pleased with their quick response to the suggested edits. Sally Baker said that foremost in people’s minds while reviewing items were the students.

David Marsh asked Robert Anderson, CDE, to report on the HSEE field test items. Mr. Anderson reported that the field test items would be reviewed by two groups; (1) community members selected by CDE to ensure that there is no bias and that the items do not offend any particular group; and (2) the Statewide Pupil Assessment Review Panel (SPAR) established in law to review state assessments to ensure that there are no items that ask about a student’s or family’s personal beliefs or practices or items that are designed to evaluate personal behavioral characteristics. He also briefly described the field test process. AIR would like to begin printing test forms by April 1 and field test

between May 15 and May 24. Based on CBEDS data, 200 schools were selected to participate; 100 will field test language arts and 100 will field test mathematics. The schools that agree to give the field test will send a roster of tenth grade students from their school and 60 students will be randomly selected to take the test.

A panel member asked about the sampling design for the field test. Paul Williams, AIR, responded that the sampling was done in the following manner. AIR and CDE: (1) divided all schools into 10 deciles (highest scoring to lowest scoring, based on reading and mathematics SAT 9 scores) to spread out achievement; (2) randomly selected 16 schools per decile; (3) will randomly select about 66 students from each tenth grade enrollment roster per school; (4) included alternative and comprehensive schools in the sample. Mr. Williams said that they did not select a sample based on attendance rates. He added that the testing period would be about 2 hours for mathematics multiple-choice items, 2 hours for reading multiple-choice items, and 1-½ hours for written constructed response items. He hopes to be able to get better timing data from the field test. The High School Exit Examination is intended to be an untimed test; however there will be general guidelines on administering it.

A question was asked about including special education students in the field test. Robert Anderson replied that they would be included and that we were moving towards focusing on extended time as an accommodation in this field test. He added that the fall field test will include a set of studies on accommodations so that a set of appropriate accommodations can be available in the spring 2001 live test.

A question was asked if the examination would include breaks for students so that they would not be in a testing situation for two or two-one-half hours at a time. Mr. Anderson replied that the test would certainly be divided into two sessions, one for mathematics and one for language arts. He felt that breaks could be worked into the administration of each session.

Kendra Rose asked how the fall field test would impact the timeline for the final test to be adopted by the State Board of Education. Mr. Anderson replied that the fall field test allows us to bring to the Board in October a set of items to approve and a plan regarding accommodation decisions for the final test. The Board would have to make a decision later, possibly in December on the final test form for spring 2001.

A question was asked whether or not teachers would receive information on how well each student did on each standard. Mr. Anderson replied that CDE and AIR have not determined exactly what structure will be provided in reporting to schools, teachers, parents, and students. He cautioned that there is a potential for only teaching those standards that are assessed. This could lead to a narrowing of the curriculum, which is not desirable. Diagnostic information for each student will be provided, quite possibly by “strands” or groups of related standards.

Gwen Stephens, CDE, said that the April and May meetings will focus on accommodations and legal issues. She also said that CDE had contracted with an

independent legal team to provide advice on the development and administration of the High School Exit Examination.

Christine Aranda announced that Gary Hart, Undersecretary to the Governor, had resigned and that Governor Davis had appointed Sue Burr as the interim Undersecretary. She added that the Governor's office is clear about the importance of the work of the HSEE Panel and appreciates the time the Panel members have given to it. Ms. Aranda said that the Governor indicated that he wanted continuity and focus on his education initiatives.

Closed session was announced for the HSEE Panel members to review the spring field test items.

David Marsh opened the meeting to the public at 3:15 p.m. There was a brief report on the mathematics and language arts field-test items. A suggestion was made that the mathematics examination be held in two sections so that the students will not have to retake the whole mathematics examination if they fail a part of it. A question was asked about why the field test was targeting 10th graders. The response was that tenth grade is when students first will be required to take the test.

Two people addressed the Panel during the public comment session.

Robert Anderson briefed the panel on the HSEE Information Packet, asking for comments and/or questions. There was a brief discussion and Mr. Anderson asked panel members to send any edits by Friday, March 31.

Glen Thomas suggested that CDE provide a teleconference on the HSEE or provide a series of regional conferences. David Marsh asked that CDE report in April what communication strategies are being prepared for the spring. He then adjourned the meeting.